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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova

Addendum

Information provided by the Republic of Moldova in follow-up to the concluding observations*

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Note: The present document is being issued in English, French and Spanish only.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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General information

Statistical data held by the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the period of 2013 — 9 months of 2015

1. The dynamics of petitions on cases of domestic violence reviewed by the police registered a steady decline (2013 — 2094; 2014 — 1227; 2015 — 842). Even if the number of reviewed petitions decreased, there is an increase in the number of investigations initiated at own initiative by police authorities (2013 — 633; 2014 — 782; 2015 — 707). Of all protocols on administrative offences, drafted on the basis of Article 78 of the Code of Administrative Offences (deliberate slight bodily injury), their share in families has decreased constantly (2013 — 11.98 per cent, 2014 — 4.57 per cent, 2015 — 3.74 per cent), which can be explained by the enhanced police awareness, who started to perceive the domestic violence as a distinct offence, thus applying more often Article 201 of the Criminal Code. Thus, the number of offences reviewed under Article 201 of the Criminal Code has increased (2013 — 1328; 2014 — 2270; 2015 — 1450). In terms of ensuring protection of victims of domestic violence, the dynamics of restraining orders supervised during the reporting period is as follows: 2013 — 448; 2014 — 920; 2015 — 631. Of the total number of restraining orders supervised during the reporting period, the share of violated protection orders constituted 14.15 per cent. The number of domestic violence cases, where multidisciplinary teams intervened, registered a positive trend, revealing a significant and constant increase of this indicator (2013 — 235; 2014 — 422; 2015 — 386).

General measures to implement observations:

2. To implement the concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the Republic of Moldova, of 23 October 2013, in particular the recommendations related to paragraphs 20 (a, b, c, d) and 28 (b), the Republic of Moldova has taken all the necessary steps to prioritize the settlement of the issues outlined by the Committee. After receiving the concluding recommendations, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, as central public authority in charge for the development of policy documents on gender equality and domestic violence prevention and combating, developed, jointly with central public authorities, representatives of international organizations and civil society, the action plan to implement the Committee's recommendations. Thus, on 23 December 2013, in partnership with UN-Women, a workshop was organized in cooperation with gender units of line ministries and other central public authorities in order to consult the proposals received during the process of commenting on the action plan for the implementation of recommendations and observations submitted by the Committee. During this workshop, the representatives of ministries and other central public authorities validated a number of actions included in the draft Action Plan. As a result, on 3 July 2014, the Government Decision No. 525 on amendments and addenda to Government Decision No. 933 of 31 December 2009 was approved and complemented the National Programme on Ensuring Gender Equality for 2010-2015 with the Annex 4 — the Action Plan to implement during the 2014-2015 the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Thus, it should be noted that the following measures were undertaken in connection with the implementation of recommendations 20 (a, b, c, d) and 28 (b) and the aforementioned action plan:

20 (a) To strengthen the enforcement of the Criminal Code, Law No. 45-XVI on preventing and combating domestic violence and other relevant national legislation; ensure that all women and girls, including in particular older women, Roma women and girls and women and girls with disabilities, are protected from violence and have access to immediate means of redress; and launch ex officio investigations into all such crimes and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished commensurate with the gravity of the crime;

Training

3. In order to strengthen the police system in combating domestic violence, the training of trainers in domestic violence and violence against women was completed jointly with the Police Academy "Stefan cel Mare" of the MIA and the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). During 2013-2015, 26 training sessions were carried out under the project, 700 employees of MIA (police heads, sector officers) benefited from capacity building in preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women, on issues regarding the Moldovan legislation on domestic violence, intervention and the role of police authorities in the issuance, execution and supervision of restraining orders.

4. In 2013, over 350 police employees of Riscani, Soldanesti, Cantemir, Anenii Noi, Taraclia, Cahul, Floresti, Vulcanesti, Balti and Stefan Voda police inspectorates received training on protection of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence organized for territorial multidisciplinary teams (consisting of social workers, police officers and health workers). These activities are part of "Prevention of Corruption and Impunity in Combating Trafficking by Empowering the Media and Fostering Cooperation between Civil Society and Law Enforcement Agencies" project, supported by the Department of State of the United States of America and implemented by the General Police Inspectorate, MIA in partnership with Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and the International Organization for Migration Mission to the Republic of Moldova.

5. During 2013-2015, 1,000 police officers were trained under the aegis of General Police Inspectorate, MIA, with the financial support of the United States Embassy in Moldova, ROLISP, Soros Foundation and OAK foundation in order to strengthen the capacity and ensure effective and prompt response to violence.

6. In 2014, the National Institute of Justice conducted 21 ongoing trainings for judges and prosecutors on domestic violence, human trafficking, anti-discrimination, rights of persons with disabilities, economic, social and cultural rights legality, with 459 professionals being trained.

7. 280 specialists in the field, members of the multidisciplinary teams (police officers, social workers and family doctors) were trained with a view to enhancing capacity of multidisciplinary intervention on domestic violence cases. This project was developed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family in partnership with the Women's Rights Centre and the ROLISP's financial support.

8. At the same time, the specialized public authorities in partnership with the Women's Rights Centre, in order to ensure the specialized authorities in preventing and combating domestic violence issues with the necessary toolkit, developed the following documents:

Police bodies:

(a) Training aid "Effective police intervention in domestic violence incidents";

(b) Practical guide on the effective police intervention in domestic violence incidents;

(c) Guide for police officers on the effective response to domestic violence incidents.

Social assistance bodies:

(a) Guidance for social workers on the intervention in domestic violence incidents.

Health professionals:

(a) Guidance for health workers on the intervention in domestic violence incidents;

(b) Adjustment to the national context of the Set of Materials developed by Women against Violence Europe and the development of a curriculum to train health professionals in order to reinforce response capacities of the health system to gender-based violence. This project was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the financial support of UNFPA.

Professionals from territorial multidisciplinary teams:

(a) Compilation of regulatory acts on preventing and combating domestic violence (developed with ILO's support, with over 10,000 copies distributed);

(b) Operational instruments developed in accordance with international standards;

(c) Stop-Violence Informative Bulletin.

9. In order to implement Law No. 45-XVI of 1 March 2007 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, Law No. 241-XVI of 20 October 2005 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the National Referral System for the protection and assistance to victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings (NRS), approved by Parliament Decision No. 257 of 05.12.2008, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family in partnership with IOM Mission to Moldova during the reference period organized training sessions on "Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence through the National Referral System". The main purpose of the training sessions was to strengthen efficient cooperation and coordinate efforts between the main active actors in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and combat trafficking in human beings. Thus, professionals with competences in this field (police officers, social workers, family doctors, representatives of educational institutions, representatives of local public authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) were trained. The number of persons who were trained during the reporting period is the following:

• 2013 — 482 professionals;

- 2014 — 932 professionals;
- 2015 (1 January-1 November 2015) — 776 professionals.

10. In order to strengthen the capacities of health professionals on preventing and combating violence against children, we note the following trainings held during 2013-2015:

- 24 October-20 November 2013, nine workshops on "Implementation of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for monitoring and assistance of children victims and potential victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking" were organized for the multidisciplinary teams from Orhei and Leova districts, supported by the National Centre for Prevention of Abuse towards Children. Over 100 professionals were trained to implement the procedures of prevention, identification of and assistance to children and families at risk and/or subjects to ill-treatment and to apply clear procedures of reporting and registering cases of violence against children.
- 12 March 2014 "Implementation of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of children victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking" for the multidisciplinary teams from Causeni district.
- 9-11 April 2014 "Implementation of the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of children victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking" for the multidisciplinary teams from Balti municipality.
- 13-16 May 2014 under "Protecting Children in Moldova from Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation" project, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Moldova and "Collaboration of Moldova and Estonia in Helping Sexually and Physically Abused Children", supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia with child protection professionals from the municipality.
- 5-6 March 2015 "Intervention of health centres on the identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking children", organized by the National Centre for Prevention of Abuse towards Children with the support of UNICEF. 45 professionals from health-care facilities were trained.
- 22-23 April 2015, the workshop on preventing children trauma/ill-treatment was organized with the support of WHO (20 professionals trained).

11. At the same time, during 2015 (March-December), workshops on preventing and assisting cases of domestic violence for health workers from primary health care in 8 administrative units were organized: Leova, Cantemir, Soldanesti, Stefan Voda, Criuleni, Edinet, Briceni, Glodeni (for 300 professionals).

Prevention activities:

12. During 2013-2015, the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs carried out activities of prevention of domestic violence and administrative offenses and undertaken actions to eliminate the causes and conditions that favour their perpetration. During this period, police authorities supervised 1,999 restraining

orders, of which 1,403 restraining orders issued by courts for women victims, 31 restraining orders — for child victims, 478 restraining orders — for women and child victims, and 78 orders — for male victims. At the same time, the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, jointly with the members of the community multidisciplinary team, visited the domicile of large and vulnerable families in order to promote harmonious family values, change the stereotypes regarding the domestic roles of men and women. Besides, meetings and discussions were held with 3,934 perpetrators registered with the Police, of which 3,751 — men and 183 — women, on aspects relating to the legislation of preventing and combating domestic violence, provided penalties, consequences for the violation of restraining orders, the need to adopt an appropriate behaviour towards members of their families.

13. In order to improve the response of authorities responsible for the enforcement of restraining orders on domestic violence incidents, the General Police Inspectorate of MIA, in cooperation with Women's Rights Centre, with the support of Soros Foundation Moldova launched the project "Improvement of the response on domestic violence cases and enforcement of restraining orders in the Republic of Moldova by developing and piloting a monitoring mechanism in two pilot districts" funded during February 2014-August 2015. The project monitored 75 cases of violence, identified success stories and gaps in the implementation of the legislation and the authorities were informed about the monitoring outcomes. Under the above-mentioned project, Inspectorates referred about 100 domestic violence victims to Women's Rights Centre in order to receive legal, psychological and other assistance. Police officers, sector officers and prosecution officers of the respective districts were trained how to apply properly the legislation.

14. The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family with the support of the World Bank continued the efforts to strengthen the Automated Information System "Social Assistance", which is a common platform for many areas of social assistance, including prevention and combating of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings. This system will allow recording the cases in the social assistance system, exchanging data with other areas that the case was referred to and assisted, thus avoiding overlaps while reporting on the collected data.

15. In the context of preventing and avoiding repetition of domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, we note that with the support of Orange Moldova Foundation, around 1.500 women received support during the socio-economic empowerment activities under "Women Act and Win" project. During 2011-2015, the project was implemented in 16 districts of the Republic of Moldova. The project contributed to the socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women from rural areas, victims of domestic violence, trafficking in human beings or lacking financial possibilities to cover the required minimum standard of living. Entrepreneurial training and providing non-monetary grants to start a business were the main project activities. The project represents a successful partnership between "Demos" NGO, Orange Moldova Foundation and the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova.

20 (b) To expedite its efforts to amend Law No. 45-XVI on preventing and combating domestic violence so as to supplement court-ordered protection with a system of police-ordered protection and enable the issuance of police emergency protection orders;

Strengthening the Legal and Regulatory Framework

16. Given the external policy objectives of European integration, the Republic of Moldova assumed a major commitment to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, adopted in Istanbul on 11 May 2011. The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova, as central public authority empowered to develop and promote policies of prevention and combating domestic violence, has set itself the major goal of applying European standards in combating domestic violence, especially through the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. To achieve this objective, the Ministry carried out a range of activities in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations. Initially, we note the support of UN-Women offered in 2013 to the Women's Rights Centre to develop the report of compatibility of the national legislation with the Istanbul Convention. The above-mentioned report provides concrete recommendations on adjusting the national legislation. The draft law on amendments and addenda to some legal acts developed and finalized based on the report of compatibility and the relevant recommendations offered by national and international experts.

17. The adoption of the new amendments proposed in the above-mentioned draft law will enable comprehensive domestic violence approach through a coordinated and effective response of the actors involved in resolving domestic violence incidents and enhancing Government's response to domestic violence incidents. The developed draft contains provisions amending some 11 laws, as well as new provisions, such as the issuance of the emergency restraining order by the police, the regulation of a new crime in the national law — acts of persecution, provision of free legal assistance in trials for victims of domestic violence, the victim's right to seek compensation from the offenders or the State that has suffered serious injuries or damage to health caused by violence. Although the draft's first version was developed and submitted for comments in 2014, the opinions and comments on the law did not allowed the draft's promotion to the Government for approval. Thus, taking into account the received comments and objections, the draft's second version was finalized and submitted to the Government for approval in August 2015. Following the review of the draft law, the State Chancellery submitted it to the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family for further examination or renewed consultation with relevant institutions on the points where there is a difference of opinion.

18. In order to ensure the finality of the objectives set by the National Action Plan on the implementation of the Association Agreement of the Republic of Moldova with the European Union during 2014-2016, the draft Government Decision approving the draft law on Moldova's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, adopted in Istanbul on 11 May 2011, was developed. On 8 October 2015 the draft was submitted for approval to specialized institutions in the field.

19. In 2015, Promo-Lex Association developed the "Report assessing the implementation of Law No. 45 on Restraining Order in the Republic of Moldova during 2012-2014" with the view to identify issues and gaps in the implementation of the provisions related to the restraining order. The report reviewed all legislative and regulatory amendments related to procedure for issuing restraining orders,

jurisprudence of national and international courts, procedure of complaints submission on domestic violence cases, number of complaints addressed to courts and the procedure for the examination of the applications for issuing restraining orders by courts. The study contains a positive appraisal of the draft law on amending some legislative acts of preventing and combating domestic violence developed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and recommends its adoption.

20. In order to implement some instruments of special protection to children at risk, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, together with social partners, developed and promoted the draft of Instructions for inter-sectorial cooperation mechanism for the identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking. The instructions were approved by Government Decision No. 270 of 8 April 2014.

21. The Order No. 153/1043/1042/293 of 8 October 2014, issued by Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Minister of Internal Affairs, approved the Referral Form of the suspected case of abuse, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children, which should be filled in by professionals from educational, health care, cultural institution, bodies of law enforcement and social assistance, regardless of legal form of organization, the State labour inspectorate, other authorities and public institutions responsible for child protection.

22. In order to improve the identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking, the Ministry of Health, with the support of the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention and UNICEF, developed and approved the methodical instruction on medical intervention in the identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking children (Order No. 445 of 9 June 2015), which contains:

(a) Sample Register of suspected cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children;

(b) Sample Report of suspected cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children;

(c) Database of suspected cases of violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking of children.

20 (c) To remove any impediments faced by women in gaining access to justice; ensure that legal aid is made available to all victims of violence; encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts; provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including Roma women; and increase the number and funding of shelters and guarantee national coverage extending to women from rural areas and Transnistria;

Access to justice

23. The Republic of Moldova is one of the first countries in Central and Eastern Europe that reformed its legal aid system. The fundamental principle of this reform

was materialized by Law No. 198 on State Guaranteed Legal Aid, adopted on 26 July 2007 and entered into force on 1 July 2008. The State guaranteed legal aid aims to protect the right to a fair trial, established by Article 6 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and to ensure free and equal access to legal assistance for all by organizing and providing State guaranteed legal aid, and reduce the economic and financial impediments in this regard. The State guaranteed legal aid system tends to ensure free and equal access to effective, affordable and non-discriminatory access for all.

24. In the context of examining women's access to justice in cases of domestic violence, the International Women Rights Protection and Promotion Centre "La Strada" with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mission to Moldova, carried out the Analysis of the existing practices on the access to justice for domestic violence victims and the exercise of their right to legal aid. The main goal of the study was to analyse the existing practices on the access to justice for domestic violence victims and the exercise of their right to legal aid and to identify the existing gaps. Thus, taking into account the findings of the abovementioned study and other surveys, the Draft law on the amendment of some legislative acts on preventing and combating domestic violence developed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family included amendments to Law No. 198-XVI of 26 July 2007 on State Guaranteed Legal Aid in order to ensure free and mandatory State guaranteed legal aid.

Awareness-raising:

25. Starting with 2002, the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is conducted nationwide in the context of public awareness raising efforts. In 2013, one of the major goals was to mobilize the society in preventing and combating the phenomenon and the national slogan of the Campaign "Indifference makes you an accomplice to violence" aimed directly to achieve this goal. According to estimates from 2013, over 30 organizations/structures were involved in the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" Campaign. About 100 thousand girls/women and boys/men benefited from the Campaign's activities. At the same time, through media sources, the events carried out during the Campaign were brought into the eye of around 1 million people. In 2014, the Campaign's slogan was "Live your life without violence". Prevention and combating gender-based violence by raising awareness of violence as a violation of human rights are among the strategic objectives proposed for 2014. One of the particular objectives was to inform the public about the national legal framework for preventing and combating domestic violence and the trends amending national legislation in connection with the planning of signing and ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The flash mob "Orange your neighbourhood" organized in partnership with UNO offices in the Republic of Moldova and the final event of the campaign "Active life without violence", held at the Sports Complex "Manej" on 9 December 2014, consisting of a friendly football match, were among the major activities carried out during the campaign.

26. One of the major achievements in 2014 was the allocation for the first time of funds from the State budget to conduct the campaign.

27. In addition, in 2015 the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family initiated the planning and coordination of the campaign. Among priority activities carried out this year, we mention: press conference with the participation of State officials, workshops of information and awareness among higher educational institutions, flash mobs at the national and local level, TV and radio programmes.

28. On 10 December 2013, under the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Ministry in partnership with AO Gender-Centru, with the support of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's mission to Moldova, in order to increase awareness and inform certain categories of beneficiaries, organized and conducted the workshop "Strategies to prevent and combat domestic violence", which trained community mediators for the Roma community. The main purpose of the event was to train community mediators and inform through them the Roma on the legislative and regulatory framework preventing and combating domestic violence and the mechanisms for its referral.

29. In December 2014, the International Centre "La Strada" conducted a social spot focused on preventing sexual violence in family in order to increase public awareness regarding the criminal character of sexual violence acts. The spot was developed as part of "Encouraging women and children to live without violence: strengthening awareness raising and support measures" project, funded by the United States Embassy in Chisinau through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The spot aimed to raise public awareness on sexual violence in family (marital rape) and to encourage people suffering from domestic violence, especially sexual violence, to address the hotline 0 8008 8008. As a result, the spot was broadcast during January-May 2015 on various TV channels. At the same time, it will be reproduced during "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" Campaign (25 November-10 December 2015). The spot was broadcast on the following TV channels: Jurnal TV, Moldova, Canal 3 and 2. The total length of spot broadcasting at all the television stations was 233 minutes and 25 seconds. As a result, the spot broadcasting increased the number of sexual violence referrals. Thus, 18 cases of sexual violence, of which 12 cases of marital rape, were counselled during the period when the spot was broadcast, which is a doubling in the number of cases compared with the same period of 2014.

Services

30. Article 8 (2) c) of the Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence stipulates that public authorities shall provide centres/services for domestic violence victims. In this context, given the limited possibilities of local government budgets, since 2009, financial resources are allocated annually from the State budget for seven Centres in order to ensure the functioning and maintain assistance programmes to reintegrate victims of violence. Since 2014, the Centre for Assistance and Counselling for Family Aggressors also began to be financed from the State budget.[1]

31. Currently, there are eight temporary placement and rehabilitation centres in the Republic of Moldova, providing psychological counselling, social, medical and legal assistance, where domestic violence victims can be assisted:

- Maternal Centre "Pro Familia", Causeni town;

[1] See annex 2 Financing of Centres for Domestic Violence Victims for 2013-2015.

- Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking, Causeni town;
- Maternal Centre "Pro Femina", Hincesti town;
- Maternal Centre, Cahul town;
- Family Crisis Centre "Sotis", Balti town;
- Maternal Centre "Ariadna", Drochia town;
- Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking, Chisinau municipality;
- Centre "Casa Marioarei", Chisinau municipality.

32. Also, to facilitate the access of domestic violence victims to specialized assistance, the "Hotline" number 080088008 was set up, managed by A.O. International Centre "La Strada", that provides psychological and legal advising and also refers the case to specialized assistance services.

33. The Centre for Assistance and Counselling for Family Aggressors from Drochia town was established to ensure a comprehensive approach of domestic violence phenomenon and ensure social assistance for both subjects of domestic violence. This Centre provides psychological counselling to change the violent behaviour of perpetrators and to prevent the recurrence of violent acts. Following the piloting of the aforementioned Centre, the Government Decision No. 496 approving the Framework-regulation on the organization and modus operandi of the Centre for Assistance and Counselling for Family Aggressors and the minimum quality standards were approved on 30 June 2014.

34. Transnistrian region. Since 2004, due to the extension of the network of assistance of victims and potential victims of human trafficking (including victims of domestic violence) to the Transnistrian region, IOM has been providing support to the civil society, "Interaction" NGO and "Women's Initiatives" NGO from the Transnistrian region. The United Nations agencies in coordination with local authorities launched the initiative to open the first Shelter for victims of domestic violence as part of "Support to Confidence Building Measures" project. Thus, in March 2015, NGO Resonance with the support of United Nations agencies started, as initial phase in the Transnistrian region (Bender town), its first service (social apartment) for victims of domestic violence with a capacity of 3-5 couples. It provides to victims and potential victims of human trafficking the same range of social services as on the right bank of the Nistru River. The Transnistrian region service network assisted 692 beneficiaries during 2013-30 September 2015, of which 362 victims of domestic violence. At the same time, in 2009 the trust line for victims of domestic violence was opened. The trust line assisted 4.139 cases during this period. However, the IOM mission to Moldova with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and in partnership with Resonance NGO set the goal to develop cooperation mechanisms in the process of intervention in cases of domestic violence in Transnistrian region. In this context, non-governmental organizations assisting victims of domestic violence and human trafficking (Resonance, Interaction, Jenskie Initsiativy) concluded an Agreement of Cooperation, aimed at improving the cooperation. Concurrently, the NGO professionals working to prevent and combat domestic violence (social workers and psychologists) were familiarized with the system of intervention in cases of

domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova. In 2014, the abovementioned professionals participated in traineeships carried out at Maternal Centre Ariadna of Drochia. During 2015, they participated in study visits to Rehabilitation centres for victims of domestic violence from Drochia, Chisinau and Causeni, and to the National Centre for Prevention of Violence ANNA, Moscow, Russian Federation.

35. In 2014, the Women's Rights Centre in partnership with Women against Violence Europe conducted the "Analysis of services provided to victims of domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova". This study aimed to perform a detailed, extended analysis of the ability of service providers who counsel women victims of domestic violence (maternal centres, shelters and other services). The overall analysis certified that placement services mentioned in the study have an estimated capacity to accommodate 181 victims of violence. Taking onto account the Council of Europe standard, referred to in Article 23 (shelters) of the Explanatory Report to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence — that requires 1 accommodation place per 10.000 people — and the estimated number of Moldovan population (3,559,497 people), there would be needed at least 356 accommodation places at the national level. Thus, the study found a shortage of 175 places.

20 (d) To ensure that all investigations into acts of sexual violence, including those committed against Moldovan migrant women, are carried out in line with international standards of investigation, including by amending the existing guidelines on investigation of rape and other forms of sexual assault

36. In order to ensure that all sexual violence related investigations are carried out in line with international standards, the Methodical guidance for sexual offences investigation of 15 August 2008, invoked at pt. 20 (d) was repealed. In addition, note that under the order of the Prosecutor General, a working group, consisting of prosecutors is currently operating to develop a working guide for prosecutors in order to ensure a uniform application of the national law in the exercise/ management and representation of the accused before the court. The Guide will also contain the subject of domestic violence and the investigation of rapes and other sexual violence acts. In this context, the prosecutors, during the investigation of crimes under Chapter IV of the Criminal Code "Crimes related to sexual life", will be guided by the provisions of the law in force and the jurisprudence of the ECHR in the field. Also note that on 7 October 2015, the analysis carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights experts on aligning the national criminal law (crimes related to sexual life) to the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was presented during the meeting of the of the Cross-Ministry Steering Council on prevention and combating of domestic violence. The main gaps identified were focused on the inaccurate wordings provided for in these Articles allowing misinterpretation in some cases and the of disproportionality of criminal penalties. Thus, based on the study conducted, it was proposed to revise the provisions related to the sexual offenses such as: Article 171 Rape, Article 172 Violent Actions of a Sexual Character, Article 173 Sexual Harassment. In this context, a draft law should be developed.

28 (b) Increase access by Roma women, women in rural areas, women with disabilities and older women to formal employment by, among other things, ensuring the effective implementation of the National Programme on Ensuring Gender Equality for 2010-2015

37. Law No. 69 of 5 April 2013, adopted for the completion of the Article 14 of the Law No. 436-XVI of 28 December 2006 on Local Public administration, included a new power to the local Council — to decide the establishment of the community mediator position in the localities with compact or mixed Roma population. According to the Framework-Regulation, the community mediator is a Roma person who is empowered to provide intermediation and improve communication between local beneficiaries (socially vulnerable Roma persons) and public service providers from level-one local public administration to overcome the period of difficulty, solve the identified issues and to get appropriate support for beneficiaries. Community mediator position is established by the decision of the local council of level-one administrative-territorial units, in the localities with compact or mixed Roma population, where the number of Roma is at least 150 persons.

38. During 2013-2015, the National Employment Agency jointly with its territorial structures carried out a range of active measures aiming at increasing employment among women including by promoting active and preventive measures on the labour market. Thus, according to the National Employment Agency database, in 2013:

- 43,500 persons were registered as unemployed, of whom 53.4 per cent were women;
- 45,700 persons received labour mediation services, of whom 53 per cent were women;
- 84,500 persons received information services and professional counselling, of whom 52 per cent were women;
- 16,700 persons were employed, of whom 56.7 per cent were women.

39. In 2014:

- 42,200 persons were registered as unemployed, of whom 50.4 per cent were women;
- 25,200 persons received labour mediation services, of whom 52 per cent were women;
- 38,900 persons received information services and professional counselling, of whom 52.3 per cent were women;
- 16,400 persons were employed, of whom 53.6 per cent were women;
- 3,000 persons received allowance for professional integration/reintegration, of whom 85 per cent were women.

40. In 2015 (January-September):

- 34,572 persons were registered as unemployed, of whom 49.1 per cent were women;
- 23,449 persons received labour mediation services, of whom 48.8 per cent were women;
- 72,473 persons received information services and professional counselling, of whom 46.5 per cent were women;
- 12,689 persons were employed, of whom 52 per cent were the women;

- 2,369 persons received allowance for professional integration/reintegration, of whom 83.2 per cent were women.

41. On 11 March 2014, the public forum "Partnerships for an Inclusive and Prosperous Moldova: Women Matter!" was organized for an effective involvement of women, persons with disabilities, members of minorities and other groups requiring special attention in participatory processes. During the event, women leaders had a meeting with the Cabinet of Ministers under the auspice of the Prime Minister Iurie Leanca. having the possibility to express their views about current and future development priorities of women and girls in Republic of Moldova, which should be inclusive and meet the needs and rights of the most needy persons and vulnerable groups (women in entrepreneurship, Roma women and girls, older women, women victims of domestic violence, women affected and infected with HIV, women with disabilities, women in decision-making process, etc.). Among the topics discussed were the following: women's perspectives with regards to inclusive services, based on the needs and rights of women and girls in education, health, employment and other services, the challenges that stop/limit women seeking employment or other prosperity opportunities in the Republic of Moldova; ways to ensure policies and other inclusive solutions for Moldova which would comply with the needs and perspectives of women through participation in decision-making platforms.

42. Later the forum continued with the meeting of 24 March 2014 with leaders of political, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary parties, and members of Parliament. The purpose was to express their views on the priorities of current and future development, in terms of women and girls in the Republic of Moldova, and to make proposals regarding women's participation in various social and age groups in political life at different levels. During the meetings the following topics were addressed: women's perspectives on policy making process, laws and their implementation based on the needs and rights of women and girls, the challenges that block the women's potential, block/limit women to be active in the political arena in Republic of Moldova, proposals to ensure the promotion of women in politics via cooperation with political parties.

43. At the same time, during May-June 2014, Partnership for Development Centre organized one meeting with each of the political parties (PLR, PLDM, PL and PDM) focused on amending the national legislation on ensuring gender equality (two packages of laws) that shall be reviewed and voted by the Parliament, as well as the commitment of each party regarding the voting of this package of laws. Within this dialogue platform, the women representatives of various vulnerable groups submitted a resolution that included the main requirements and listed the most important issues that need to be solved.

44. "Women in Politics in Moldova" Programme for 2014-2016 was launched in 2014 in order to promote women, including women from vulnerable groups, in the decision-maker process and was implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNDP in partnership with East Europe Foundation and Partnership for Development Centre with financial support from the Swedish Government. The following events were organized for the first time under this programme:

- On 20 October 2014, women representatives of the Government, district councils, political parties, and women candidates in parliamentary elections of

November 2014, participated in training on the assessment of the needs of women candidates or potential candidates for the parliamentary and local elections;

- On 27 November 2014, the National Forum of Women Lawyers, entitled "Women Lawyers S.E.R. — Share, Equality, Representation" which was attended by about 100 women lawyers of the Republic of Moldova. The participants in the Forum had addressed issues related to the underrepresentation of women in politics and decision-making processes, including the underrepresentation of women lawyers in the management of the Union of Lawyers.

45. On 5 December 2014, women with disabilities across the country met to discuss about the underrepresentation of women with disabilities in politics and in decision-making processes, as well as the structural problems they are facing, such as discrimination in the society, the lack of an adequate infrastructure, as well as their non-representation in the public life and in the decision-making processes.